



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone (916) 323-9983  
Fax (916) 323-9999  
[www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov)



January 10, 2000

**Inquiry:** I currently work for a durable medical equipment (DME) company and have been told by another DME company that individuals that are NOT licensed Respiratory Therapists are NOT allowed to complete pulse oximetry testing. I understand that a non-licensed person should not be interpreting results, however, I question the statement that "a non-licensed individual CANNOT drop off an oximeter with a patient and print the information to be handed over to a physician for interpretation." Is there a difference between leaving a pulse oximeter with a patient and giving the results to a doctor vs. interpreting the results and making recommendations? Are there guidelines for what a non-licensed individual is allowed to do? What is to stop the individual from completing the testing if it isn't allowed? Who sets the guidelines?

**Response:** The task you listed in your letter is identified as Classification 3B, which is nearly verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act and prohibited. For more information, see Business and Professions Code Section 3702.

Reference # 1999-C-63